



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

Inside Wallops

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Johnson Becomes First ISO 9001 Certified NASA Field Center

The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) has become the first NASA field center to earn ISO 9001 certification and one of the largest U.S. research and development organizations so honored.

National Quality Assurance (NQA) USA today presented the certificate of ISO 9001 registration to JSC Director George Abbey. The presentation followed a successful independent audit by NQA of the JSC Quality System in late February. The third-party auditors examined such areas as management commitment, design control, documentation, purchasing, test and inspection, and corrective action procedures. NQA found that JSC met or exceeded the stringent quality standards in all areas.

"This certification is a significant testimonial to the excellence of our quality system at JSC, and also serves as a starting point for continuing improvement of our overall technical

and management processes," said Abbey.

ISO 9001 comprises the most detailed, comprehensive set of standard requirements for quality programs established by the International Standards Organization. To date, nearly 20,000 U.S. organizations have received ISO 9001 certification.

All NASA installations are required by NASA Administrator Daniel S. Goldin to be ISO 9001 registered by September 1999. NASA is the first federal agency to seek the quality certification as an entire agency.

JSC's certification applies to all center human space flight responsibilities including program and project management, spacecraft engineering and design, flight crew training, space and life sciences research, and mission operations in support of NASA's Human Exploration and Development of Space enterprise.

NASA Awards Five Firms the George M. Low Award

Five aerospace companies were awarded the space agency's highest honor for excellence and quality.

The George M. Low Award, established in 1985, is NASA's highest quality and excellence award for contractors and subcontractors and the oldest award for organizational quality.

ILC Dover, Inc., Frederica, DE, received the award in the large business, product category; and AlliedSignal Technical Services Corporation, Lanham, MD, and DynCorp, Johnson Support Division, Houston, TX, both received the award in the large business, service category. In the small business, product category BST Systems, Inc., Plainfield, CT, received the award; and Advanced Technology Company, Pasadena, CA, received the award in the small business, service category.

ILC Dover, Inc., specializes in developing high technology engineered softgoods. The company has a long record of outstanding performance in the development of EVA spacesuits. Its recent success came from the development and delivery of the Mars Pathfinder airbag landing system.

AlliedSignal Technical Services Corporation demonstrated exemplary operational proficiency of over 99.996 percent from 1995 through 1997 with 99.94 percent systems reliability covering the same time frame.

DynCorp, Johnson Support Division, provided and supported a variety of specialties and supports a wide array of aircraft equipment and systems. The success of NASA's astronaut training program and Shuttle mission support programs is directly related to the performance of this contractor.

BST achieves consistently outstanding performance in a field often characterized as "black magic" — aerospace batteries. BST developed the battery for the Mars Pathfinder. The battery lasted more than three times the planned Mars surface-mission duration, 98 Martian days versus the required 30 days.

Advanced Technology Company is considered a world-class metal joining company, tackling jobs that most organizations consider impossible. The company has produced 20 imaging detectors that are operating error-free in space.

NOAA-K Satellite Launched from Vandenberg AFB

A new satellite that will improve weather forecasting and monitor environmental events around the world, soared into space May 13 from Vandenberg AFB, CA. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)-K spacecraft, lifted off at 8:52 a.m. PDT, on an Air Force-launched Titan II rocket. More than six minutes later, the spacecraft separated from the Titan II second stage.

At 9:22 a.m., PDT, controllers successfully verified deployment of the solar array and a power positive condition on the satellite. NOAA-K is the first in a series of five polar-orbiting satellites with improved imaging and sounding capabilities that will operate over the next twelve years.

is currently in a polar orbit 450 nautical miles (833 kilometers) above the Earth.

Like other NOAA satellites, NOAA-K will collect meteorological data and transmit the information to users around the world to enhance weather forecasting. In the United States, the data will be used primarily by NOAA's National Weather Service for its long-range weather and climate forecasts.



A Titan II rocket boosts the NOAA-K satellite into orbit.

Data from the NOAA spacecraft are used by researchers within NASA's Earth Science Enterprise, a long-term research program designed to study Earth's land, oceans, atmosphere, ice and life as a total integrated system. In addition these data are

helping NASA scientists design instruments for follow-on missions.

NASA will turn operational control of the spacecraft over to NOAA after a comprehensive on-orbit verification period, which is expected to last approximately 60 days. The spacecraft

NOAA-K was built by Lockheed Martin Missiles and Space and launched for NOAA under technical guidance and project management by the Goddard Center.

Blood Pressure Screening

by Dianne Hargrove, R.N.

During May, the Health Unit offers blood pressure screening for all employees Monday through Friday, 1 to 4 p.m. in Building F-160.

High blood pressure drugs work in various ways, they can affect:

- how hard the heart pumps
- how much the blood vessels widen and narrow
- how much fluid is in the body.

The main types of high blood pressure drugs are:

Diuretics - Sometimes called "fluid pills", these work in the kidney and flush excess water and sodium from the body through urine. Since sodium is flushed from the blood vessel walls, the vessels open wider. Pressure comes down.

Beta Blockers - These reduce nerve impulses to the heart and blood vessels. This makes the heart beat less often and with less force. Blood pressure drops and the heart doesn't work as hard.

Angiotensin Antagonists - These are a new type of high blood pressure drug. They shield blood vessels from a hormone called angiotensin II, which normally causes vessels to narrow. As a result, the vessels are wider and pressure lowers.

Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) Inhibitors - These prevent angiotensin II from being formed. They relax blood vessels and pressure goes down.

Calcium Channel Blockers (CCBs) - These keep calcium from entering the muscle cells of the heart and blood vessels. Blood vessels relax and pressure goes down.

Alpha Blockers - These work on the nervous system to relax blood vessels, which allows blood to pass more easily.

Alpha-Beta Blockers - These work the same way as alpha blockers but also slow the heartbeat, as beta-blockers do. As a result, less blood is pumped through the vessels.

Nervous System Inhibitors - These relax blood vessels by controlling nerve impulses.

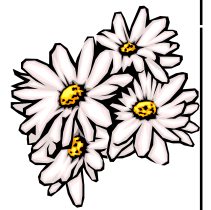
Vasodilators - These open blood vessels by relaxing the muscle in the vessel walls.

If you need a high blood pressure drug, speak up and ask:

When should it be taken?

What can you eat or drink with the drug? How long must you wait before and after a meal to take it?

What other drugs can or cannot be used at the same time?



Thrift Savings Plan Open Season

The Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season begins May 15 and will continue to July 31, 1998.

During the Open Season, employees can initiate new contributions to TSP, discontinue existing contributions, change the amount of their contributions, and/or change the method in which future contributions will be invested.

TSP information, fact sheets with investment returns, as well as a number of other TSP publications can be found on the Internet website address: <http://www.tsp.gov/>

For information and forms, contact Audrey Young in the Office of Human Resources, Bldg. F-160 or call x1411.



WEMA/MAA Monthly Tail Gate Sale

Wednesday, May 20,
Starts @ 11:30 a.m.
We'll be in the Flag Court parking lot across from the cafeteria

If you didn't get to the April Tail Gate Sale, you missed some mighty good buys!!! There were MACHO things...TOOLS. For the bookworms, there were paperbacks. Where else can you get a \$5.95 paperback for \$0.50 or less? Some people bought VASES and SILVER BRACELETS, others got BASKETS and DISHES. Two ladies, out for a lunch-time walk, didn't have money on the spot. They used lay-away, got a treasure and finished their walk.

Civil service, contract, and tenant employees are invited to set up and "sell their stuff"!!! Clean your closet, attic or barn this weekend and **GET RID OF THAT STUFF!!!** If you haven't used it or worn it for over a year, **THEN SELL IT!!!**

This also is an opportunity for WEMA sponsored clubs to make money!!! Clubs can set up to sell anything but lunch.

NOTE: All leave or flex-time policies apply.

Coffee on May 20



Wallops employees, civil service and contractor, are invited to attend the monthly morning coffee with Wallops managers from 8 to 9 a.m., May 20 in the cafeteria.

Upcoming Course

Space Systems I: An In-Depth Multi-Disciplinary Review

(36 hours — Four 8-hour sessions and One 4-hour session)

This multi-disciplinary course provides a complete summary of the technologies needed to understand and develop spacecraft systems and instrumentation. The course presents a systems engineering approach for developing and understanding the design and testing of spacecraft systems. The emphasis will be on how today's technology is incorporated into the planning, designing, fabrication, integration, and testing of modern space systems. Space Systems I is recommended for engineers, scientists, and managers.

DATES: June 15-18, 1998 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) & June 19, 1998 (8 a.m. to Noon)

LOCATION: Building E-2

FUND SOURCE: Directorate

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: June 1, 1998

Training requests from Code 800 should be routed through Sherry Kleckner. All training requests must reach Code 114 no later than June 1. For further information, call Kimela Ouakil, x66-5087 or Tracey Roberts, x66-5378.

Mission 2000 Decals



The new Mission 2000 Decals are in and have been distributed. NASA civil service employees who have not received one should contact their division office. Contractor employees should contact their contract supervisor.

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Editor
Photography
Printing

Betty Flowers
Optical Section
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